

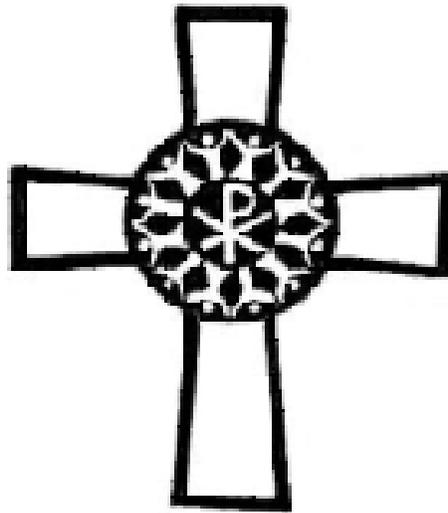
The Church of St. Stephen & St. Bede

An Anglican and Lutheran Worshipping Community

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2016 Annual Report

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Annual Meeting of the Church of St. Stephen & St. Bede

An Anglican and Lutheran Worshipping Community

Agenda February 5, 2017

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Murray Still
2. Letters from the Bishops
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary
4. Acceptance of Agenda
5. Appointment of 2 scrutineers
6. Minutes of the Febuary 7, 2016 Annual Meeting
7. Correspondence
8. Reports: As distributed in AGM Report
9. Financial Report
10. Nomination Committee Report
 - New Member for the Council
 - Motion re-cessation of nominations
 - Voting
 - Nominations from the floor
 - Voting
11. New Business
 - Presentation of Budget for 2017
 - Results of Voting (If Necessary)
 - Contract Renewal for Rev. Murray Stills
 - Discussion Document
12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn
13. Closing Prayer – Glory to God

Annual Meeting of the Church of St. Stephen & St. Bede

An Anglican and Lutheran Worshipping Community

Minutes February 7, 2016

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Murray Still 1 pm after bag lunch, prayer to remember those who have passed this past year.
2. Letters from the Bishops
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary : Kari appointed by acclamation;
4. Acceptance of Agenda move: Brita as amended, seconded by Gordon, passed
5. Appointment of 2 scrutineers: Debi and Karen agree to be scrutineers.
6. Minutes of the February 8, 2015 Annual Meeting: no amendments or corrections, Brita move acceptance, Donna seconds, carried
7. Correspondence: None to report
8. Reports: As distributed in AGM Report: Debi amends Mitten Tree Report, there were 4 large bags of knitted items; Donna amends Syrian Family report that the family and the third brother has arrived, and items will be distributed from items donated; move reports as amended Debi, seconded by Marilyn, carried
9. Financial Report: Passed as presented
10. Nomination Committee Report
 - New Members for the Council: (Vern (deceased), Donna, and Gord terms ending) Katharine Walton and Tim Nachtigal nominated—no other nominations; will leave 1 spot open for late volunteer; nominations cease: next Council meeting Feb 16 at 7; meeting with Bishop Elaine for discussion of Local Collaborative Ministry within the Lutheran protocol on Wed February 24, 5 pm (pizza provided)
 - Lutheran Annual Metro Conference Delegate: Tim Nachtigal
 - Anglican Diocesan Synod Delegates x 2 (2 year term): Phyllis and Gordon Graham
 - Motion re-cessation of nominations Moved: Debi, seconded Brita, Carried
 - Voting-not necessary
11. New Business
 - Presentation of Budget for 2016: Moved: Brita, second Debi, carried including pledge of support to Diocese and Synod of \$1000 to each, to be increased an additional \$500 each if finances allow as of December 31, 2016
 - Results of Voting (If Necessary): not necessary
 - Discussion Document: Murray presentation re: relationship with congregation of St. James: future planning as Murray moves into second year of three year contract: suggestion to strike a committee with representatives of both parishes to look at physical assets of both congregations; split into small groups for discussion:

Specific Section for discussion:

“ I propose we take concrete action this year to continue our good work in the spirit of the Future Directions Committee and our own resolutions from annual and congregational meetings. This would involve:

- 1. Drafting a motion at both our annual meetings to create a New Missions subcommittee, whose task would be to examine our two structures, 99 Turner Avenue and 195 Collegiate Street and make recommendations to Vestry/Council by June 2016.*
- 2. Call a special meeting of Vestry/Council to examine the recommendations and make recommendation to congregational meetings at the two churches in September, 2016.*
- 3. Draft a covenant for our two churches to function in mission.”*

Motion: “We take concrete action this year to move forward with discussion document as presented: to create a subcommittee of two members of each church, to report back to council by the end of April. “

Donna moves, Marilyn seconds; Carried.

12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn Marilyn, Janet seconds, carried, 3:00 pm

13. Closing Prayer – Glory to God

Rector's Report

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away; behold the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

In Memoriam:

Patricia Aris
Blanche Ablett
Elizabeth (Betty) Cushman

Dorothy Whillans
James (Jimbo) Fraser
Thelma Miller

Sheila Welch

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on them.
May they rest in peace."

It's a tired cliché, but my how the time flies. As I write this, we head into a new year, 2017, which is the final year of my three-year contract.

As you recall, I spelled out goals for each of the three years. In year one, for example, we were to come together as two congregations to develop a working relationship, make new friends and enjoy this new partnership. To my knowledge, we are one of the few urban two point parishes in the city.

The first year achieved its goal with many joint opportunities that included worship and education. In the second year, 2016, the hope was to examine our assets at both churches and make some decisions on mission.

As a result, the two congregations struck sub committees to examine the church assets and mission and to make recommendations back to the churches. At St. Stephen and St. Bede, the congregation heard the asset or building is in excellent condition and some minor repairs have been made. The building is well suited to the neighborhood and should last well into the future. That said, you will hear of the desire to replace existing carpets that are aging.

As far as mission, St. Stephen and St. Bede, at a congregational meeting following the service sent a letter of invitation to the parish of St. James, to join them in their building. Under this type of agreement, St. James would maintain its 9 a.m. service and liturgy with the Book of Common Prayer and St. James liturgy. The Church community would bring its necessary furnishings to be stored and used at 99 Turner Avenue.

Over at St. James, a similar approach was taken as a subcommittee looked at the asset. That group reported back to the congregation that there was much work needed to repair the roof and existing mold damage in the building. The letter of invitation from St. Stephen and St. Bede was read and was well accepted. However, when the congregation asked for a financial update, it was clear there was enough money to repair the damage to the building. In addition, several user groups have been making good use of the facility, including the Prairie Circus Guild, AA, Alanon, Happy Mike's, the Silver Notes, music classes, the St. James Wechetowin Food Bank, and occasional outside renters. All in all, the building is home to many neighborhood groups.

As far as mission, it became clear that continuing partnership with St. Stephen and St. Bede was welcomed and would be continued. Not long after our congregational meeting, the Corporation met with members of the Heritage Baptist Church, who were seeking permanent home after many months of worship in a community centre. The church Vestry supported a contract with the Heritage Baptist Church as a major renter of the facility at a rent of \$1000 per month effective January. Their Church community is thrilled, as they have many attendees at worship, young and old. Their service occurs at 11 a.m. and our Anglicans have been meeting the Baptists as the two services overlap. Members of the Heritage Baptist Church have already been of assistance in repairing parts of the building, installing thermostats, more security, etc. The newly repaired choir room is providing great office space and so far, it seems a good fit. The additional revenue will ensure St. James remains viable for years to come.

The next section will outline many of the achievements of our two churches through 2016. We look forward to the coming year, also filled with mission and ministry opportunity.

Mission and Outreach

On occasion, our two churches host Mission Sundays, where a guest preacher is invited to preach. In 2016, we hosted Archdeacon Jason Musoke and his wife Faith from our Companion Diocese of Central Buganda, Yukon Bishop Larry Robertson, National Indigenous Bishop Mark Macdonald and Canon Robert Keriopa from New Zealand, the Rev. Margaret Mullin from Inner City Ministries, and the Rev. Deacon Maylanne Maybee, principal for the Centre for Christian Studies, who brought us a message on the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund or PWRDF. If you were unable to attend these services, their messages can be located on our parish website at www.churchofststephenstbede-wpg.org. We were thrilled by the choice of Tim Nachtigall as our office secretary. Tim has been doing a great job of creating the PowerPoint each week, along with the other office duties. Soon, he will take over the task of monitoring and updating the parish website. We are grateful to Deb Bride who has been doing this, and is now able to move to Costa Rica.

In May, our two churches made sandwiches for the Urban. Through the year, a subcommittee of our two churches has met to plan a Bereavement Support Group, as the two churches have faced several losses over the past couple of years. A six-week program on Bereavement Support will start January 24 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen and St. Bede. Please register with the office if you intend to participate.

The Mount Royal Food Bank operates on Thursdays opposite the St. James Wechetowin Food Bank. Many thanks to those who give of their time for this valuable ministry to clients in need. The food bank is a partner with Winnipeg Harvest, who provides the food. We pick it up at Winnipeg Harvest, deliver it to the church and distribute the food later in the day. Our two churches are considering the creation of box gardens for use at our facilities. The clients of the food banks and neighborhood residents are encouraged to harvest vegetables from the garden.

Through the year, we host opportunities for fellowship and outreach, such as the successful Trivia Night (organized in part by Marilyn Lund) and the picnic in May. This past Christmas season, about 18 members of St. Stephen and St. Bede visited shut-ins and Care homes to bring Christmas carols that were enjoyed by many. That was followed up with a successful Christmas Eve service with about 80 in attendance. Once a month, both churches assist in offering a worship service to residents at Oakview Care Home. Both churches also send members to the Neighborhood Resource Network meetings where we can hear of social programs in our area.

Locally, St. Stephen and St. Bede have supported refugee families sponsored by the parishes of St. Matthews and St. Paul's Fort Gary. We can be proud of our effort at collecting furnishings for the home. As well, we continue to collect mittens and scarves as a part of our Mitten Tree project. All the items lovingly donated are shared with the homeless and those in need through Siloam Mission and other places. Jim's Goats continues each year, collecting money to purchase goats for use by families in Africa. Many thanks to those who lovingly knit prayer shawls and lap rugs in both churches. These items are blessed at our main service and shared with those who are sick or shut in. There is no cost, so if you know of someone who could use a little extra love and prayer, let us know and we will gladly donate them. Meanwhile, the healing ministry is strong in both churches. We offer prayers of anointing at the altar rail following Communion Sundays at St. James and at the chapel when requested at St. Stephen and St. Bede. If you know of someone in need of prayer, please let us know, as our two churches hold deliberate prayers for healing.

Anglican members of our two churches participated in the diocesan Synod in October, and resolutions were passed based on our Indigenous Awareness month. Thus, all Anglican congregations are now expected to host an Indigenous Awareness month in June. Look for more Synod details in the annual reports.

Education

St. Stephen and St Bede's education committee has largely been responsible for the creation of a Lenten program Monday nights. This year's focus will likely revolve around the theme of the Reformation, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Roman Catholic Church commemorate 500 years of the Reformation. Anglicans everywhere should also climb on board, as our history is found within those 500 years as well. At one point, the King of England was granted the title by the Pope of "Defender of the Faith" in response to the position of Martin Luther on the sacraments and his reforms. That title is held by the Queen to this day. The theme "From Conflict to Communion" will be explored through the year. At St. Stephen and St. Bede, for example, you will soon see notices of guest preachers, social occasions, panel discussions and a focus on Martin Luther's music. I encourage all Anglicans to utilize this opportunity for learning and the potential for reconciliation between denominations.

In the New Year, structural change will see all Christian education other than Lenten activity planned through the joint Worship and Education committee of our two churches. For example, we are planning a joint program between our two churches and the Muslim community on inter faith education. This will also give opportunity for a fundraiser for joint projects on our link parishes of Galatiya and Myungwe in Central Buganda. We are also hosting four opportunities in 2017 to join in common worship, twice at St. Stephen and St. Bede and twice at St. James. The additional numbers at worship on those occasions adds to a strong sense of community with prayer and praise and sacrament.

In June, a team of about 11 pastors, youth and lay folk travelled to the northern community of Split Lake for a Justice and Reconciliation Tour. This was a powerful experience for all involved, and you can read more on our website. Meantime, our two churches have also hosted two sessions on seniors' education. Look for more opportunity in the New Year.

In 2016, we hosted an entire month on Indigenous issues planned by both churches. Through the month at both church locations, we hosted keynote speakers, watched educational videos with a sharing circle and learned about healing and reconciliation. With similar assistance from planners, our hope is to continue that work in 2017.

Pastoral Care

Regular visits to the congregation are important in both churches. At St. James, I am grateful to my Rector's Warden, Angela Brandson, for pastoral visits and to Donna Maclean who organizes visits for members of St. Stephen and St. Bede. Please call the office to arrange for visits at any time. If you know of anyone sick or in need of a visit or prayer, please let us know as we would also like to place the names on the prayer lists. This past year, we celebrated the weddings of Trevor and Angela and Darcy and Josh. We also hosted a celebration of life for

Sheila Welsh. Our congregation was also thrilled to host celebrations for Margaret and Alfred Wischnewski on occasion of the 50th wedding anniversary, and birthdays for Lydia Green and Ursula Lange. We gladly celebrated with the Caribbean community as well, at their annual Christmas dinner. The Caribbean group meets monthly at 99 Turner Avenue.

THE NEW YEAR

This is the final year of my contract, and the focus is on Mission and Education. While you can read of the mission that is already ongoing, this is a special year as we commemorate 500 years of the Reformation. Anglicans are encouraged to join us in learning not only about the Reformation, but reconciliation, as Lutherans and the Roman Catholics enter a deliberate year with the theme “From Conflict to Communion.”

At St. Stephen and St. Bede, the learning has already started with a focus on the music written by Martin Luther. We have learned his version of the Lord’s Prayer, for example, and each week, we will sing a Martin Luther hymn. We participated in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with its focus on reconciliation and our Lenten series this year will pick up on that theme as it applies to Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

In the month of November, watch for Dr. Dirk Lange’s guest preacher visit, as well as Dr. Timothy Wengert, another well-known Lutheran professor. The two will join us for a panel discussion and there may even be a special fundraiser in October. Through the year, other Lutheran churches will also host events so I encourage you to attend what you can.

Starting April 18, our two churches will host a four-week education program in cooperation with the Muslims. The theme for the event is “My Neighbor’s Home is My Home.” Through the four weeks, you will learn of Muslim and Christian values and identity and share in each other’s delicacies. You will pray at times and you will hear messages from both communities of faith on four topics—Building Neighborhoods, core values of stewardship and creation, human equality touching on racism and women as builders in the community. This program will occur at 7 p.m. at St. James Anglican, St. Stephen and St. Bede and two Mosques—the Winnipeg Central Mosque on Ellice and the Waverly Grand Mosque. This event will also allow us to raise needed funds through a free will offering for our clinic in Myungwe and a boda boda or scooter for the clergy at the link parish of Galatiya in Central Buganda.

Our two congregations continue to host very successful food banks that reaches the neighborhood. It is our hope to construct box gardens at the churches that will contain vegetables and flowers perhaps that can be harvested by food bank clients and those in the neighborhood.

In June, our two congregations will host another Indigenous Awareness month. As a result of our effort last year, our Anglican Synod has mandated all Anglican parishes will focus on Indigenous awareness in June. Watch for details. Meantime, we will continue to reach out and assist the Urban with sandwiches and worship. As pastor, I have been asked to lead a men's sharing circle on prayer and I look forward to that. I encourage any who want to join me to do so.

The Bereavement Support Group started a six-week program January 24. These Tuesday sessions start at 1:30 p.m. and feature a video and discussion after. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, this program may suit you. You do not have to have been in attendance at previous meetings to join, so come when you can. Call the office for details and to register.

If you have any ideas for social gathering or fundraising, talk with Ruby Morris, as she is chairing a group of talented folk who can bring your idea to reality. Meantime, we encourage you to continue supporting Jim's Goats, the Mitten Tree and our African parish links.

If you need a parish visit or have someone you want prayers for, contact the office and we will add the names to the list. It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor in this lively two-point urban ministry. I believe through the Holy Spirit we are cutting new ground. As we do, our prayers for renewal are being heard and answered. May God bless you and bless our shared ministry as we move forward in Christian community.

Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still

Pastor's Warden Report

It has been a busy year. A Pastor's Warden is part of almost every committee there is.

It means I know a little bit about a lot of things and have to learn about more.

We had opportunities last year to learn about Indigenous People.

I met some wonderful people who had the courage to make their lives better. They are now helping others to do the same.

This fall we met with Muslim leaders and are planning opportunities for us to learn more about the Muslim faith and people. It will also give them an opportunity to learn about us.

As Christians and as humans we must open our minds and hearts to people.

We also spent time with the folks from St. James. The 165th anniversary of the old church and joint services and eating together. Great times!

Thank you to all those who helped and supported me through the year. That is all you wonderful people. My church family. It has been so much fun working and playing with you. Murray isn't ready to get rid of me yet, so I will be hanging around a while longer.

If you have something bothering you, come and see me or one of the People's Wardens. No grumbling. Let's get problems resolved.

Peace and Blessings.

Margaret Wischnewski

Pastor's Warden

People's Warden Report

As your representatives on Council we sincerely hope we have met your expectations.

Unfortunately, 2016 was a difficult one – losing many of our dear friends and long time parishioners.

On the brighter side:

Debbie and Ken Pointkoski ... a new granddaughter

But It was a year for “boys” ... grandsons for

Ruby and Fred Morris

Phyllis and Gordon Graham

A great grandson for Pat and Jim Brown's family.

This year Marilyn and Gord Lund proudly sent out photos of their first grandchild – a boy.

May God Bless all these 'new' welcome additions to our families ...

Over the year, we shared good times with our friends at St. James Anglican Church as Pastor Murray manages to guide our two parishes admirably.

We continue to have people who work diligently at 'fund raisers' and to them we give a big “thank you”.

We welcome Tim Nachtigall as our new Church Secretary!

We are so blessed to have many people who work “behind” the scene on our behalf – to name you all would take up a lot of space and we may miss one of you! But know that we are so very grateful to each and every one of you A big Thank you!!

Ruby Morris

Patricia Poole

People's Wardens

Music Report

"This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before," Leonard Bernstein

It is in such a world that our music ministry takes on greater meaning. Congregational music teaches, strengthens and heals. There are so many people that help to make that happen: instrumentalists, soloists, as well as the contemporary group and choir members. I am grateful for your dedication to our music ministry. A very special thank you to Wes Stevens for enhancing our accompaniment with his recorder expertise and to Janet Chell for so willingly substituting for me throughout the year enabling me to travel a little in my "retirement". Thank you, all, for your support. It's a privilege to journey in faith together.

This year our four Contemporary services continued to be well received. Also, with the help of Marilyn Lund, we wrote a new uplifting and joyful Christmas Eve service that used some of more meaningful parts of the Contemporary service. As well, it has been a pleasure to work with Tim Nachtigall, our new church secretary whose many talents enhance our music program. I also have attended Lutherjar 2017 meetings to prepare for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In addition, I attend monthly Worship Committee Meetings held jointly with St. Stephen and St. Bede and St. James Anglican Church.

Otherwise, my duties continue much as before: planning, researching Scripture, choosing music, practising both at home and with soloists, L&F and the choir. After choosing the music, the monthly list of hymns is typed and emailed to Tim, Murray and Wes. If there are new lyrics, these must also be typed and sent. Also time consuming is the research involved in reporting copyright for reproduction on Powerpoint. To expediate this, I keep an ongoing database for myself. I also keep a database of hymns to ensure that choices reflect the worship styles and preferences of the congregation balancing Lutheran and Anglican traditions. Also, on Wednesday, our secretary sends the Powerpoint to me for editing. I research new music and new accompaniments to keep our worship interesting and responsive to current trends

Choir practises on Saturday starting at 1:15 and Loaves and Fishes practises from 2:30 to 4:00. New singers and musicians are always welcome. Please consider sharing in our joy this new season.

In Christian Harmony,

Carole Grier
Music Director



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Christian Education Committee Report

In 2016 the Christian Education committee has focused primarily on 2 areas

1. the planning and delivery of our Annual Lenten Lecture Series and
2. holding a book study.

We are grateful to Wesley Stevens for his continued work in organizing & approaching of speakers to bring us such valuable and stimulating information for our Lenten programs as well as the leadership & guidance of Canon Rev. Murray Still. I also wish to thank other committee members (Jean Brown, Alf & Margaret Wischnewski, Donna McLean) who participate in selection of topics, assist with media notices, organize and provide hospitality and refreshments at our Lenten series. Also appreciated is the additional assistance of parishioners who help with printing (Kari) delivery of brochures (Fred & Lorne) & all those who assist in many ways on the evenings of the series. The 2016 series focused on 4 topics of scripture, social activism, traditions & music of worship & was held: Feb 15 – March 7, 2016.

Planning is underway for another impressive Lenten Series 2017 focusing on themes of Reformation & being held during Lent March - April 2017.

In fall 2016 the Christian Education Committee organized a book study on Rev. Jamie Howison's & Stephen Bell's book & CD: I Will Not Be Shaken: A Songwriter's Journey Through the Psalms. This study was held in 2 afternoon sessions with reading, sharing & listening to the CD's and discussion of Jamie's reflections. Each session was well attended & we ended the series with an evening meeting with Jamie in attendance to answer questions & share his overall thoughts on these writings. Thank you to all who participated & shared so openly, & to committee members who each took a session to lead us in our discussions.

I wish to thank Council and Pastor Murray for the opportunity to have served as chair of this committee for the past several years as I now step down & resign from this committee.

Respectfully submitted;

Kay Stewart, Chairperson
Christian Education Committee

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild grew by one this year, as we invited Marilyn Lund to join us and she graciously accepted. The Guild now consists of nine dedicated members and 4 associated members. We meet once a month from September to June to discuss the day to day business of caring for and preparing the Altar and Church for worship.

Bev Forsberg served as president this year and did an excellent job of planning and guiding us through the church year. Thank you Bev for a job well done.

The Guild also prepared for 6 Memorial Services this year, beginning with Pat Aris in January followed by Betty Cushman, Blanche Ablett, Dorothy Whillans, Sheila Welch, all long time parishioners of St. Bede's, also a Mr. Frazer. It has been noted that when the Eucharist is being celebrated at these services only three quarters of those in attendance receive communion. A donation of \$200 was sent to the Altar Guild in appreciation and remembrance of Blanche Ablett from her nephew.

We made Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday, prepared the church for Holy Week, cleaned and decorated for Easter Sunday. On Mothering Sunday we presented all mothers and grandmothers in attendance with a carnation, Simnel Cake was provided by some guild members for the coffee hour. We also cleaned and decorated the church for the Advent and Christmas Season. Preparation for these two seasons is made much easier for the ladies by the male associates who do the heavy lifting of the banners and hanging the wreaths. Many thanks for the much needed help.

Many parishioners generously donated money to purchase flowers for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter services, as well as placing flowers at the Altar in Thanksgiving or In Memory of loved ones during the year. Our thanks go out to Kari Hagness, our flower secretary, for preparing all the floral arrangements that beautified our church this past year.

Mincemeat was made by the Guild again this year to be used as a fund raiser. This always proves to be a favorite and sells well.

One very worthy project the Guild took on this year was to honour our past and present Honourary Pastors by gathering their pictures, framing them, and they are now hanging in the meeting room.

The members of the Altar Guild also gave a donation to Agape Table this year.

The Altar Guild is made up of a group of women, two female and two male associate members who enjoy each other's company, and support one another in the work we do. The year will end with our meeting on January the 3rd, and our Epiphany party, which I'm sure, will be enjoyed by all; as well we are looking forward to a busy and fruitful coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan McLean, Secretary

Altar Guild Treasurer's Report

The Altar Guild uses donations to purchase flowers. We place them at the altar in memory of loved ones who have passed away. They are also used to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and other occasions such as the carnations for Mothering Sunday.

We thank you for the donations that allow us to decorate the church and altar so beautifully on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

We raise funds by selling our Locally Famous mincemeat and crafts.

The money earned is used to pay for things such as cleaning the altar fair linens.

In 2016 we purchased matting for pictures of our Honorary Assistant Pastors. They are placed in the vestry surrounding our Laughing Jesus.

At our annual meeting we set goals for the future. When a need arises and, as we are able we buy items for the church.

Thank you for your support.

Margaret Wischnewski
Altar Guild Treasurer

2016 Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land Report

The 113th session of the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land began on Oct 20th with the Eucharist at the Cathedral. The Bishop gave an address to the delegates gathered there.

On Friday the business of Synod was conducted. Out of this business came several resolutions:

- 1) The month of June would be acknowledged as Indigenous month. Parishes would be encouraged to pray for all missing & murdered women & girls. This was proposed by Rev. M Still, and passed.
- 2) The next resolution was for the Manitoba government to proceed immediately with the Freedom Road & Bridge to the Shoal Lake 40 Reserve.
- 3) The Diocese of Rupert's Land strongly encourages all parishes to become members of The Anglican Foundation at \$50 or more per year.

During the sessions we had missional statements that we discussed in groups. On the last day, we had a different kind of session from St. Albans of Kenora. They presented a film done by members of their church. This film took place last Christmas. They put on a dinner for the homeless & for those who are alone. The children of the Sunday school interviewed the workers & the guests. The children were insightful & compassionate with their questions. They treated the guests with great respect. These children were an example of embracing the Word with Christ. They were blessed with Grace.

The film is available on YouTube—St. Albans Kenora

Phyllis & Gordon Graham

Mitten Tree Forest Report

Thank you to all St. Stephen St. Bede family and friends who so generously donated to the mitten tree this year. We were able to grow a small forest this year with warm woollies going to Sister MacNamara School, John M King School, The Urban and MacDonald Youth Services.

Many warm hearts have helped keep children and adults warmer this winter.

Thank you Ted and Janet Chell who helped deliver the warm woollies.

Yours in Christ

Debi Pointkoski

Envelope Secretary Report

In 2016 there were 39 envelope holders and 7 PAR donors.

There were 13 “Casual” donors who gave a total of \$2812.81

Following is a breakdown of the offerings for 2016 with a comparison to 2015:

Range (\$)	2016	2015
000 - 200	10	7
201 - 400	3	4
401 – 600	4	3
601 – 800	5	5
801 – 1000	3	4
1001 – 1200	5	5
1201 – 1400	3	3
1401 – 1600	0	0
1601 – 1800	3	2
1801 – 2000	1	4
2001 – 2200	1	3
2201 – 2400	0	1
2401 – 2600	2	3
2601 – 2800	0	0
2801 – 3000	1	1
3001 – 4000	2	0
4001 – 5000	1	2
5001- 6000	1	1
8001 - 9000	1	0
Total	46	49

Please review your year-end statement and contact me if you have any questions or if you believe there may be an error. I will be happy to review your statement with you.

Gord Lund,
Envelope Secretary

Rentals Report

We have had a fairly successful year this year and have been able to add \$11,330.00 to our church income.

We have our regular clients Christo Family Pentecostal Church, Norman Arts Group, Caribbean Seniors, Keep Fit Club and our Girl Guides.

We have had occasional rentals such as a Russian Cultural Group, weddings, showers, birthdays, etc.

We have a beautiful facility for social and business functions at a very reasonable rate – please promote it to your family and friends.

I would like to sincerely thank the heavy lifters who have so willingly helped me in putting away tables and straightening up chairs when needed!

Respectfully,

Donna McLean

Fundraising Report

There were several fundraising projects in 2016 in aid of our operating expenses. Thanks to many of our church members volunteering their time, donations and talents to make these a success. The year started with a pancake breakfast and that event raised over \$350 on a cold winter day. Thanks to Denise Hobson, Pat Poole, Ken Pointkoski and friends; the Sunday treats project was appreciated by many Sunday regulars and raised nearly \$600 over the year. A Show and Save book campaign raised \$245 and will be happening again this year. The fall Trivia Night organized by Marilyn and Gord Lund was a great success, aided by the many donations for raffle items from members. This raised \$1100 !! The sale of craft and other items over the year rounded off the fundraising activities.

There is currently no committee making these activities happen. These projects happen because of individual church members - like you - thinking them up and making them happen. So, please, be creative this year again and think up a project, ask for helpers where needed, donate items when asked and participate with your friends to have a good time and help our church. Every amount helps us continue to keep our family going. Thanks to you all.

Submitted by:

Derek Legge

Church 'Buddy' Callers Report

Thank you to all our callers who continue to maintain contact with our parishioners. Much of our parish communication is maintained by our parish secretary through emailing weekly announcements out to those on email. However, simply disseminating information was never the purpose of this ministry but rather to maintain some "human" contact with parishioners, particularly with those we may not see every week. We thank our callers (Dave Campbell, Jean Brown, Donna McLean, Margaret Wischnewski, Janet Chell, & Denise Hobson) for maintaining this important personal connection.

Sadly we lost Pat Aris, a long time participant in this committee, with her passing this year. Her diligent caring & pastoral care of her fellow parishioners is a great loss, but we thank our other committee members who have taken on those parishioners from Pat's list.

We had occasion to update our "buddies" on special projects, activities, funeral & memorials, church services & generally to keep in touch with those who may not be able to get to church regularly but appreciate the fellowship & concern shown by a phone call.

At this point as co-chairs we are looking to step down from this position & would invite those interested to let us know or to approach Pastor Murray, to make your interest known. We are willing to remain as one of the callers of this committee. Thanks again to all our callers.

Respectfully submitted;

Kay Stewart & Derek Legge

Outgoing Coordinators, Church Buddies Caller Committee

Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

Our Prayer Shawl ministry continues and at present we have a supply on hand - also a couple of 'lap' size. I wish to thank everyone who helps out by knitting or donating for the yarn....

Blessings.

Patricia Poole

Building Maintenance Report

COMPANY	WORK DONE	COST
RONA	CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR - LOFT	\$ 25.55
CANADIAN TIRE	REAR DOOR BELL	\$ 56.49
CAL'S CONCRETE	REAR STEPS REPAIR	\$ 1,900.00
TRI-M WINDOWS	REPLACED BACK WINDOW	\$ 855.75
ABLE EXTERMINATORS	SET TRAPS TO ELIMINATE RODENT PROBLEM	\$50.00/ MONTH
AL SANSOM	REPLACED TABLE LEGS / RENTER DAMAGE	\$ 40.00
COLLEGE ELECTRIC	ANNUAL FURNACE INSPECTION (X5)	EST. \$ 350.00
PEERLESS FIRE	ANNUAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSP	EST. \$ 200.00
AL SANSOM	MODIFIED 3 FUNACES FOR AIR FILTERS	\$150.00 SAVING
AL SANSOM	REPAIRED KNEELER FROM XMAS EVE SERVICE	NO COST
AL SANSOM	REPLACED LIGHT BULBS AS REQUIRED	
AL SANSOM	REPAIRED WOMENS WASHROOM DOOR FRAME AND REATTACHED ACTUATOR RENTER DAMAGE	NO COST

Submitted by
Al Sansom

Financial Report

The Church of St. Stephen and St. Bede's Annual Financial Report for 2016 is attached in a separate document.

Thank you to Sandy Lloyd for auditing the 2016 books.

Submitted by Kari Hagness
Treasurer



Synod Office Report to Congregational Annual General Meetings

Called Beyond Comfort Zone, by Dr. Walter Brueggemann
(Prayers for a Privileged People, Abingdon Press, 2008)

We are among your called. We have heard and answered your summons. You have addressed us in the deep places of our lives. In responsive obedience we testify, as we are able, to your truth as it concerns our common life.

We thank you for the call, for the burden of that call, for the rest that goes with it, for the joy of words given us by your growing spirit, and for the newness that sometimes comes from our word.

We have indeed been in the counsel of your summoning spirit, and so we know some truth to speak. But we are, as well, filled with rich imagination of our own, and our imagination is sometimes mashed and overmatched by our cowardice, by our readiness to please, by our quest for well-being.

We are, on most days, a hard mix of true prophet and wayward voice, a mix of your call to justice and our hope for shalom. Here we are, as we are, mixed but faithful, compromised but committed, anxious but devoted to you. Use us and our gifts for your newness that pushes beyond all that we can say or imagine. We are grateful for words given us; we are more grateful for your word fleshed among us.

This prayer has been guiding me throughout 2016. I keep being reminded that we walk a line between chaos and order, truth and denial, newness and old and this is ordinary, common ministry for us at the synod office but also for you in congregations and ministries across the synod.

We are continually a reforming church, and as we celebrate the coming year of the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the reformation may we keep at the centre of our work a call to humanity, creation and salvation NOT FOR SALE. Keep in mind special events will occur to help us commemorate the reformation with our Roman Catholic neighbours.

What has perhaps most profoundly shaped this past year has been a journey of imagination, exploration and experimentation as a way to discern what God has in mind for us. Thank you for adding your imagination and experiments through your applications to ACTS of the MNO Synod. We are affirmed that the Spirit is at work among us. Regular updates will also let you know how we are doing with ALIGN, Anglicans and Lutherans in **God's** Neighbourhood, with a particular focus on what we can learn as we listen to our neighbours and encounter what God is up to in our neighbourhoods.

There has been increased participation in the life of Lutheran Theological Seminary through new students and candidates for ministry and especially the development of the Western Synods Lay Academy. Some of you have already participated in that initiative. Courses will

increase in 2017 so we look forward to learning together. The seminary is waiting a positive ATS review and we are excited to participate more deeply in programming.

A joint MNO/SK Synod bus trip brought together youth and their leaders prior to them attending the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Gathering (CLAY). Three hundred people developed community beyond their synod borders and blessed each other by our common experiences.

While youth ministry continues to be a priority for synod staffing, we are noticing a change in this demographic. Stats Canada has reported that the number of Canadians in the teenage demographic is smaller than the seniors age demographic. The greatest growth is within the Indigenous youth demographic. Perhaps this needs to be addressed in the coming years.

A number of initiatives and events provided a full experience of learning and listening to our Indigenous neighbours in Canada. The synod had representation at the ACC Urban Indigenous Ministry Consultation, Sisters in the Spirit Walk for Missing Murdered Indigenous Women, blanket exercises as well as a trip to Split Lake Reserve 121 in northern Manitoba. This continues to be the centre of our justice and reconciliation work. Congregations can begin the conversations around right relationships by viewing the film *Reserve 107* which reflects one Lutheran faith **community's** response to “**Where** do we begin **listening?**”.

Significant work has been done in regards to the ELCIC Letter of Call and Employment Contracts for Rostered ministers. This will be rolled out in 2018. An orientation to the documents will be available in the spring of 2017.

We continue with the Global Companion relationship with the church in Cameroon. Bishop Elaine and Ben Nickel (St. **Paul's**, Steinbach) will represent the synod in meetings in Cameroon in February 2017. We will also have an opportunity to observe the Orphan program that so many of you have supported over the years, either through Sunday School programs or benevolence.

Thank you for the partnership, the people resources, the ideas of things to try, benevolent funds and Mission As Hope dollars. Blessings for continued joy in the work you do in the world as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each of you contribute to the wellbeing of **God's** people and we give thanks to God for your inspiring work in the local context. Thank you for your continued prayers

Bishop Elaine and synod staff



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Donald Phillips,
Bishop of Rupert's Land

January/February 2017

Dear fellow disciples,

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." This greeting appears at the beginning of almost all of St. Paul's New Testament epistles. It is also commonly used by many Lutheran preachers and it is my heartfelt greeting to all of you as you gather for your Parish Annual Meeting.

At our Diocesan Synod last fall, whose theme was *Embracing the world with Christ*, we passed a resolution that every recognized gathering (basically every type of group, committee, task force, governing body, Annual Meeting) — every circle in which we participate — spend time developing a *culture of grace* — exploring what it means in their context, and taking steps to make it a reality, part of our transformation as we embrace the world with Christ. Attached to this letter is a one-page guide (*Developing a culture of Grace*) to assist in that work in your congregation — including at your Annual Meeting.

1. Acknowledging "the Land"

In response to the grace shown to us by the indigenous peoples of this land, our Synod also passed a resolution that all diocesan and parish meetings be encouraged to acknowledge that we are meeting on Treaty Land and the homeland of the Metis Nation. You may wish to "tweak" whatever notices you use (and substitute different Treaty numbers depending on where you live.) Below is a sample of what we are using in Winnipeg:

We acknowledge that we meet and work in the Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here.

2. Anglicans and Lutherans in God's Neighbourhoods (ALIGN)

A small team of Lutherans and Anglicans, guided by Alan Roxburgh of the Missional Network, have shared this invitation with us: *together, as Lutherans and Anglicans, we want to participate more fully with God in the places and neighbourhoods we call home. Together, in these places, our people will employ new habits and engage biblical practices that include dwelling in God's word, listening intently in our neighbourhoods, and discerning where the Spirit is inviting us to join in. This exciting, new journey will lead us into a deeper communion with God, our neighbours and each other. The Holy Spirit is longing to break the boundaries of our imagination. Please come along.* Anglicans and Lutherans in 3 areas of Winnipeg as well as Selkirk-St. Andrews have responded to that invitation. We are waiting with anticipation for the exciting new practices they will discover.

3. Discipleship — Missional Communities — Stewardship of God's grace

These 3 words represent the call to our congregations over the last 3 Synod meetings — 2012, 2014 and 2016. Growing in our stewardship of God's grace involves us being transformed (by God's grace) to realize the God-given potential of everyone and everything around us. It is a call for each of us to see our fellow members as sources of giftedness; to care for our homes, our workplaces, our worship gatherings, and for the earth itself— as spaces in which to build communities of God's mercy, justice

and love for all. And it is a call to recognize the amazing potential of our financial resources to empower God's mission in our Church and communities. We are challenged in our churches by the words in the Epistle of James, "You do not have because you do not ask." [James 4:2c] We usually think of "asking" as an imposition — a placing of an uninvited burden on others. But in the Christian community it is an invitation — an invitation to share the potential — the power — of God's grace. Those invitations, and the amazing opportunities they offer, are all around us. The Common Ministry and Mission invitation of 12.5% of our income is eagerly waiting to bear fruit — supporting new and vital ministries across our Diocese. Our national Anglican Foundation which provides grants and loans for ministry projects across our Church has issued Rupert's Land an invitation through a resolution passed at our last Synod — for every parish to become a member of the Foundation for the minimal gift of \$50 per year. Our history with the Foundation has been one of receiving grants that have many times over exceeded the gifts that parishes and persons have given to the Fund. **Therefore, I am asking every congregation or faith community in our Diocese to take out an Annual membership in AF with a gift of at least. \$50 per year. Because the Executive Committee wants to monitor this situation, please send me a note no later than Mar. 31 to let me know the status of this request with your congregation.** Furthermore, I encourage individuals within your congregation to take out an annual membership in the Foundation to support ministry and mission initiatives not only in our own diocese, but across the breadth of the Anglican Church of Canada.

4. Annual Mothering Sunday Service — March 26, 2017 (4th Sunday of Lent) at 7 pm at St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg. You are invited to gather in order to witness to the fullness of who we are in Christ through reaffirming baptismal and ordination vows, blessing the sacred oils and celebrating the Eucharist together. As you are able, please make a commitment to be among those present at this year's service.

5. Gatherings for Parish Clergy and Wardens. As you discern persons for leadership roles in your ministry and mission; please have them set aside time on their calendars to participate in this important session to equip them (both long-standing and new leaders) for leadership in our contemporary contexts. These will take place on Saturday mornings — **May 6** for the Ontario parishes and **May 13** for the Manitoba parishes.

6. Staying connected with the Rupert's Land NEWS! The Rupert's Land News has a new Editor-Kyla Neufeld. The RLNews comes as a monthly magazine in electronic format, and is distributed weekly as Rupert's E-news. Everyone with access to an electronic platform (computer, tablet, smart phone) needs to sign up to this primary way we communicate and educate. Have you signed up? If not, I encourage you to do so by visiting www.rupertsland.ca to 'get connected' and get the latest news, events and issues of concern to the Church both locally, nationally and globally.

I wish all of you much grace and love in our partnership in the Gospel! Thank you for all of the grace that you share as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

+ Donald

The Rt. Rev. Donald Phillips,
Bishop of Rupert's Land

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Developing a culture of Grace

The 2016 Diocesan Synod adopted a resolution (A-2) which reads:

“Resolved that every recognized gathering in our Diocese – Vestries, Councils, Bible studies, Mission groups, Deanery Clericus, Diocesan Council, Associates in Episcopal Ministry, etc. – every circle in which we participate – spend time developing a culture of grace – exploring what it means in their context, and taking steps to make it reality, part of our

transformation as we embrace the world with Christ.” (*Synod theme = Embracing the world with Christ.*)

Discussion points:

- What is “grace”? (Dictionary definitions focus on 3 primary meanings from ancient Latin – a pleasing quality; favour or goodwill; gratitude or thanks.) In English usage, the second of these also developed a sense of an expression of favour by a superior, or an offer of mercy, clemency or pardon. (i.e. The extreme expression of grace – God’s gift of Jesus Christ to the world.) How would you describe receiving “grace” from a person or community? (an example)
- Jesus’ attitude in everything he did and said was one of grace. “Every word, every action, every challenge of Jesus was designed **to show the potential, the possibility, the good purpose, of all human lives in God’s world.**” What would this look like in the context of this group of people?
- St. Paul says that “**we are members one of another**” in the Church. (Rom. 12:5) In the same chapter he expands on the truth that we have different gifts and functions but that we *need each other* in order to function fully as the Body of Christ. How do we express and live out that reality in the context of this group of people?
- Intentional communities of grace see that one of their primary purposes is “**to reveal the potential, the possibility, the good purpose of all human lives and, in fact, all of creation.**” How will we continue to monitor our ability to do this in this group or gathering?